8th November, 2004, European Parliament have adopted regulation to establish common rules, which provide for compensation and assistance to air passengers in the event of denied boarding and cancellation or long delay of flights.

(c) All airlines operating to EU Member States including Air India are affected by the new regulations. All airlines have represented to European Economic Community (EEC) through International Air Transport Association (IATA) in this regard.

(d) As per the information paper circulated by EU, reasons for delay of flights are not relevant. If the delay is up to 5 hours, passengers are to be provided meals, refreshment, hotel accommodation and transport between the airport and the place of accommodation. If the delay is more than 5 hours, the cost of the ticket will have to be reimbursed.

**Fire Accident at Bangalore Airport**

10. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the flights at Bangalore airport were disrupted following a fire which broke out at the Airport Terminal building on the 2nd February, 2005;

(b) if so, the causes for the fire accident;

(c) the action taken by the Airports Authority of India in this regard so far; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to avert such fire accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The incident was caused due to Electrical Short Circuit.

(c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has advised the licensee running the restaurant where the fire broke out, to install fire detection system and protection measures as per National Building Code and also to provide training to all staff in the first-aid, fire fighting and evacuation, to repair the premises and to obtain necessary certification from fire and electrical departments before commissioning of kitchen services.